

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 22, 24, 26 and 27 as unpatentable over Begg in view of Bigbie and Dallas.

Claim 22 is amended to recite a further step of mounting a tubing head spool, as similarly called for in allowed claim 1, to a top one of the tubular heads. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 22 clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Begg in view of Bigbie and Dallas. No new matter has been added, no further search should be required, and the rejection of claims 22, 24, 26 and 27 is traversed.

It is furthermore respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Begg, Bigbie and Dallas.

Dallas teaches installing a header spool on the well before a wellhead is installed and performing the steps required to perforate the casing and stimulate or fracture the zones requiring treatment in order to prepare the well for production before wellhead equipment is installed (see Abstract). Consequently, Dallas fails to teach successive [wellhead] heads having a higher working pressure than the [wellhead] head below, as suggested by the Office Action, and there is no motivation to combine.

Bigbie teaches an adapter for a wellhead which supports a production tubing string 14 using a slip assembly 22' (col. 4, lines 3-15). Begg teaches a plurality of slips 39 that engage and suspend the inner casing or tubing 40. Consequently, Bigbie and Begg respectively fail to teach or suggest the limitation added to amended claim 22, and Dallas provides no remedy for their shortcomings.

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For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 22 and claims 24, 26 and 27 which depend therefrom clearly distinguish over the prior art. As noted above, no new matter has been added and no further search is required.

Claims 24 and 26-28 are amended to correct typographical errors and minor informalities.

In view of the above-noted amendments to the claims, this application is now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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